# Whitchurch Rural District Council.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Dr. LLOYD SMITH).

For the Year ending December 31st, 1914.

MONMOUTH:

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# Report of the Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

# WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31st, 1914.*

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GENTLEMEN,

In presenting the Annual Report for 1914, I am directed to make it under the following headings :—

(1) PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT.

The area is 11,307 acres. It is made up of the various Divisions of Welsh Bicknor. Whitchurch, Ganarew, Welsh Newton, Garway and Llanrothal. The conformation is hilly, rising to 1,200 feet in Garway and 800 feet in Welsh Newton, while on the river levels it is only 100 feet above sea level. The Rivers Wye and Monmow, with their contributory streams, drain the district. All the land is agricultural (grazing, corn and fruit-growing, with a proportion of woodland). A few small stone quarries are worked in various parts of the district.

(2) POPULATION.

At the last census it was 1,526, and is now estimated to be 1,520. It consists of resident gentry, farmers, farm labourers and a few mechanics, boatmen and quarrymen. The occupations are healthy. The wages earned are small, consequently old age and illness necessitate poor law and hospital relief in a large number of the cottagers.

(3) BIRTHS.

The number registered was 31, which gives a birth-rate of 20 per thousand persons living.

(4) DEATHS.

There were 27 registered, which gives a rate of 17·7 per thousand persons living. The standardized death-rate is 13·99926. There were no uncertified deaths; two were certified by the Coroner.

(5) INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of children dying under 1 year of age was 3. This gives a rate of 1·9 per thousand persons living. One case died of tubercular meningitis; one at 10 days of prematurity; and one of acute bronchitis. None were illegitimate.

(6) ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Three deaths occurred from diphtheria in the Whitchurch Division—an epidemic occurred in this division during the summer and autumn. There were 26 cases in all. A special report was made. The distribution of the cases did not indicate any local cause, due to food supply or house sanitation; but as many of the cases attended the Whitchurch Schools, and, no doubt, spread the disease there by contact, the Schools were closed, and a representation was made to the School Managers to alter the unsatisfactory state of the offices. The Board of Education demand that the Schools be closed until new offices are built, and which is now being taken in hand. One of the cases of diphtheria was removed to the Monmouth Fever Hospital. Three cases of scarlatina were reported in the Whitchurch Division; one was removed to the Chepstow Fever Hospital. Two cases of scarlatina were reported in the Garway Division; no deaths occurred iu any of these cases. The death-rate for Zymotic Diseases is 1·9 per thousand persons living.

(7) PHTHISIS.

One death occurred at Abertillery in the case of a female belonging to this district. This gives a death-rate of 0.6 per thousand persons living.

(8) CANCER.

One death of a female belonging to this district was registered at Northwood. This gives a death-rate of 0·6 per thousand persons living.

(9) HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

There are sufficient houses, but many of them are small and old and often fall out of repair.

The defects in structures are—Lowness of ceilings; the windows of the bedrooms are low down and do not open; and the walls are damp from defective shooting and defective construction.

One case of overcrowding with defective structural conditions of the bedrooms was found; the overcrowding was abated, and the structural defects are to be corrected.

There are no building bye-laws in force.

Action taken under the Housing Acts—169 dwelling-houses were inspected; one was considered dangerous and injurious to health.

No closing orders were made.

One house was remedied without making a closing order.

No dwelling-houses were demolished.

Two dwelling-houses were made in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

No houses are, or have been, erected on the site of demolished houses.

No houses have been closed.

One house has been rebuilt.

(10) SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

There is no system of house drainage in any of the villages. Privies with pits, which are cleaned out and the soil buried in the garden; water closets with cess-pits and earth closets all treated in the same way, are the only means of getting rid of house sewerage. The house refuse is treated in the same way—*i.e.*, burying in pits in the garden. When properly attended to (it is efficient.

(11) WATER SUPPLY.

Is from rivers, springs, wells, and rain-water tanks. In many parts of the district it is defective, and in dry seasons deficient. The supply to a few houses in Ganarew has been improved. The proposed scheme for supplying Whitchurch from the Lewston Spring has not been carried out. Meeks' Well requires repairing and improving. This supply is valuable at the present time, although small and not always constant. There are no combined supplies; no case of pollution of the streams has been reported.

(12) DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There is only one Dairy on the Register. It is in good order, as are the Cowsheds of the District. No tuberculous milk was reported.

(13) SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The two in the District have been kept in a satisfactory state. The drainage into a pit which is at once cleaned out, has been attended to. Both the slaughter houses now have wells for a water supply. No unwholesome meat has been reported. There are no Bye-laws.

(14) HOP-PICKERS.

There are none.

(15) COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none.

(16) OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are none.

(17) BAKEHOUSES.

The Three Bakehouses have been limewashed and kept in a satisfactory state. There are none underground.

(18) SCHOOLS.

The Whitchurch Schools were closed from July owing to an epidemic of diphtheria. The Schools are large and airy, but the offices are defective in construction and position. The Education Authority demand that these be altered. The playground is worn into hollows, which collect the water in wet weather. This requires remedying. The water supply is from a well which is in dangerous proximity to the School-house offices and to a surface drain from the back kitchen.

The Garway School has no water supply on the premises.

The Welsh Newton Schools were closed in March owing to an epidemic of measles.

The Schools are regularly visited by the School Medical Officer.

## (19) ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

There is no available accommodation for isolating infectious disease. The want of this has been acutely felt during the outbreaks of scarlatina and diphtheria. The district is too small to maintain a hospital of its own, but several of the adjacent districts might combine and suppor an efficient one. Arrangements have been made to utilise available accommodation in the City of Hereford Smallpox Hospital should a case occur in the district.

At present the only means taken to combat notifiable diseases are the supplying of disinfectants, paying for antitoxine, and giving instructions as to isolation and fumigatiug the premises on the termination of each case.

## (20) ACTS AND BYE-LAWS ADOPTED IN THE DISTRICT.

None.

## (21) WORKPLACES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Bakehouses, Blacksmiths' Shops, Wheelwrights' and Carpenters' Shops, the Cycle Shop and Dressmakers, were visited and found satisfactory; not more than three people work in any one of them; there are no outworkers.

## (22) INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Notices served, 7; notices complied with, 7. Letters written, 20; complaints investigated, 12. Nuisances abated, 15.

Infectious Diseases.—Removals to hospitals, 2. Premises disinfected, 24. Bedding, Clothing, &c., disinfected, 20. Schools disinfected, 3.

Houses.—Inspected, 169. Houses rebuilt, 1. Overcrowding abated, 1.

House Drains.—Two relaid and trapped. Spouting, waste pipes, sinks, &c., rectified, 5.

Scavenging.—Privies, receptacles, &c., cleansed, 3. Ashpits, cesspits, &c., emptied, 7.

Slaughter-Houses.—Inspected, 2.

Dairies.—Inspected, 1.

Workplaces.—Bakehouses inspected, 15.

I am,

Yours obediently,

LLOYD SMITH, M.D.

February 26th, 1915.

TABLE I.

# WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT

**Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous years.**

| Year. | Population estimated to Middle of each Year. | Births. | | | Total Deaths Registered in the District. | | Transferable Deaths | | Nett Deaths Belonging to the District. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Un-corrected Number. | Nett. | | | | | | Under 1 year of age | | At all Ages. | |
| | | | Number. | Rate. | Number. | Rate. | of Non-residents registered in the District. | of Residents not registered in the District. | Number. | Rate per 1,000 nett Births | Number. | Rate. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1909 | 1529 | 20 | | 13 | 17 | 11.1 | | | 3 | 150 | 17 | 11.1 |
| 1910 | 1527 | 35 | | 22.8 | 28 | 18.3 | | | 3 | 85.7 | 28 | 18.3 |
| 1011 | 1526 | 23 | | 15 | 18 | 11.7 | | | 3 | 130 | 22 | 14.3 |
| 1912 | 1524 | 36 | 38 | 25 | 19 | 12.4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 52.6 | 23 | 15 |
| 1913 | 1522 | 37 | 37 | 24 | 28 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 28 | 11 |
| 1914 | 1520 | 31 | 31 | 20 | 24 | 15.8 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1.9 | 27 | 17.7 |

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water). 11,307

Total population at all ages 1,526
Total families or separate occupiers 373
At Census 1911.

TABLE II.

# WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT.

## Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1914.

| Notifiable Disease. | No. of Cases Notified. | | | | | | | | Total Cases Removed to Hospital |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | At all Ages. | At Ages – Years. | | | | | | | |
| | | Under 1 | 1 to 5 | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25 | 25 to 45 | 45 to 65 | 65 and upwards | |
| Small-pox .. .. .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera (C) Plague (P) .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Diptheria (including Membranous croup) .. | 26 | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas .. .. | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever .. .. | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| Typhus Fever .. .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Enteric Fever .. .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Relapsing Fever (R) .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Continued Fever (C) .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever .. .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Poliomyelitis .. .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals .. .. | 32 | | | | | | | | |

TABLE III.

# WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT.

## Causes of Death, and Ages at Death during the Year 1914

| Causes of Death. | Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District. | | | | | | | | | Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents" in Institutions in District. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All Ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 2 years. | 2 and under 5 years. | 5 and under 15 years | 15 and under 25 years | 25 and under 45 years | 45 and under 65 years | 65 and upwards | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| All causes — Certified .. | 27 | 3 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 11 | |
| All causes — Uncertified | Nil. | | | | | | | | | |
| Diptheria and Croup .. | 3 | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Tuberculous Meningitis | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Cancer, malignant disease | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Organic Heart Disease | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | |
| Bronchitis .. .. | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Pneumonia (all forms).. | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Other diseases of respiratory organs | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cirrhosis of Liver .. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nephritis & Bright's Disease | 3 | | | | | | | | 3 | |
| Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth .. | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide .. | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Other Defined Diseases | 9 | | | | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 4 | |
| Totals .. | 27 | 3 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 11 | |

NOTE — In this Table are shown Causes of Death of only those Cases that have been notified.

TABLE IV.

# WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT.

## Infant Mortality during the year 1914.

**Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.**

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Under 1 week. | 1-2 weeks. | 2-3 weeks. | 3-4 weeks. | Total under 4 weeks | 4 weeks & under 3 months. | 3-6 months. | 6-9 months. | 9 12 months. | Total deaths under 1 year. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All causes { Certified .. | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 3 |
| All causes { Uncertified .. | Nil. | | | | | | | | | Nil. |
| Tuberculous Meningitis .. | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Convulsions .. .. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bronchitis .. .. | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) .. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature birth . .. | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Causes .. . | | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals .. .. | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 3 |

Nett Births in the year { legitimate 31. / illegitimate Nil.

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 3. / illegitimate infants 0.

NOTE—In this Table are shown Causes of Death of only those Cases that have been Notified

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1914,

FOR THE

# RURAL DISTRICT OF WHITCHURCH,

On the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

## Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

### 1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES,

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

| Premises. | Number of | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Inspections. | Written Notices. | Prosecutions. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| **Factories** ... ... ... (Including Factory Laundries). | | | |
| **Workshops** ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries). | | NONE. | |
| **Workplaces** ... ... ... (Other than Outworkers' Premises included in Part 3 of this Report) | 15 | | |
| **Total** ... | 15 | | |

### 2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

| Particulars. | Number of Defects. | | | Number of Prosecutions |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Found. | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector. | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| *Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—* | | | | |
| Want of Cleanliness - - - - - - | | | | |
| Want of Ventilation - - - - - - | | | | |
| Overcrowding- - - - - - - - | | | | |
| Want of Drainage of Floors - - - - - | | | | |
| Sanitary Accommodation { Insufficient - - - | | | | |
| Sanitary Accommodation { Unsuitable or defective - | | | | |
| Sanitary Accommodation { Not separate for sexes- - | | | | |
| *Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—* | | | | |
| Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) - | | | | |
| Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) - - - - - - - - | | | | |
| Other offences . - - - - - - - (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report) - - - | | | | |
| Total - - - - | | | | |

## 3—HOME WORK.

| NATURE OF WORK. | OUTWORKERS' LISTS. SECTION 107. | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Lists received from Employers | | | | | | Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists | Prosecutions. | |
| | Sending twice in the year | | | Sending once in the year | | | | Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists | Failing to send lists. |
| | Lists. | Outworkers. Contractors | Outworkers. Workmen. | Lists. | Outworkers. Contractors | Outworkers. Workmen. | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Wearing Apparel— | | | | | | | | | |
| (1) making, &c. - - | | | | | | | | | |
| (2) cleaning and washing - | | | | | | | | | |
| Household linen - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Lace, lace curtains and nets - | | | | | | | | | |
| Curtains and furniture hangings - | | | | | | | | | |
| Furniture and upholstery - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Electro-plate - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| File making - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Brass and brass articles - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Fur pulling - - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Cables and chains - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Anchors and grapnels - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Cart gear - - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Locks, latches and keys - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Umbrellas, &c. - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Artificial flowers - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Nets, other than wire nets - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Tents - - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Sacks - - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Racquet and tennis balls - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Paper bags and boxes - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Brush making - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Pea picking - - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Feather sorting - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. - | | | | | | | | | |
| Stuffed toys - - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Basket making - - - | | | | | | | | | |
| Total - - | | | | | | | | | |

NONE.

## 4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

| | Workshops on Register (No. 131) at the end of the year. | Number. |
|---|---|---|
| Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses may be enumerated here. | Blacksmiths - | 5 |
| | Wheelwrights - | 1 |
| | Carpenters - | 4 |
| | Dressmakers - | 1 |
| | Bakers - | 3 |
| | Cycle Shop - | 1 |
| | Total number of Workshops on Register - | 15 |

## 5—OTHER MATTERS.

| CLASS. | | |
|---|---|---|
| Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:— | | |
| Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133) | - | |
| Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5). | Notified by H.M. Inspector - | NONE. |
| | Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector - | |
| Other | - | |
| Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):— | | |
| Certificates granted during the year | - | |
| In use at the end of the year | - | |